Reduction on Agriculture Land in Assam

897. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the decadal reduction of agricultural land since 1971 in Assam indicating percentage involving various causes of such reduction including erosion, covering of land with unfertile silt, total submergence to river system and use of agricultural land for other purposes; and

(b) action contemplated for influencing farmers to adopt multiple cropping with minor irrigation programme and modern methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There is no reduction in the area under agriculture land in Assam since 1971 as per the Report of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture. It was 24.35 lakh ha. in 1971-72 which increased to 27.94 lakhs ha. in 1981-82 and remained at 27.94 lakh ha. in 1991-92.

(b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various schemes for promotion of multiple cropping and modern agricultural technologies. These schemes have built-in provisions for subsidies on modern inputs such as improved varieties of seeds and modern agricultural implements. Further more schemes on Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Plant Nutrient Management, Watershed Development Programmes also promote transfer of appropriate technology to farmers. The details of schemes being implemented are given in Statement (*See* below). The Ministry of Rural Development is also providing incentive in the form of subsidy under the Self Employment Scheme of Swaran Rojgar Yojna for minor irrigation activities which can be taken up by individual farmers or a groups of farmers below the poverty line. The subsidy provided for individuals is 30% (50% for SC/ST) of the project cost, and for a group of farmers the level of subsidy is 50% of the project cost.

Statement

List of Schemes being implemented

1. Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects/Flood Prone Rivers.
2. National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.
3. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in NE Region.
4. Integrated Crop Development Programme for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals.
5. Scheme on Balanced and integrated use of Fertilizers.
6. Scheme on Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds.
7. Integrated Pest Management Scheme.
8. Scheme on promotion of Agricultural Equipments in N.E. States.

Changes proposed in New Agricultural Insurance Scheme

898. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions for changes in the proposed New Agricultural Insurance Scheme has been received by Government;

(b) if so, its details; and

(c) the action proposed to accept the proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARANAYA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments (including Andhra Pradesh) have given suggestions for changes in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Main suggestions are:—

(i) Sharing of risk between Government of India (GOI) and State Government should be in the ratio of 2:1

(ii) Creation of 'Corpus Fund' may be dropped.